

Developmental Disabilities Council
Policy & Law Committee minutes
August 24, 2018
Friendly's, Middletown, De.
9am – 11 am

Members present: Rick Kosmalski, Terri Hancharick, Bill Powell, Daniese McMullin-Powell

Members absent: Maitri Campbell, Nancy Lemus

Staff Present: Stefanie Lancaster

I. Position Statements

1. Discussion of Future Statement

a. Personal Care Attendants Reimbursement – The committee stated that there are concerns regarding the rates that Personal Care Attendants are paid working in the community versus working in nursing homes. Recently, a raise was given to those working in group homes and nursing homes. Those attendants working in the community were not part of that rate increase. People with disabilities living in their own homes who receive Medicaid and Social Security Income don't get as much as those individuals living in supervised homes. The committee agreed that Rick will give information to Terri and Daniese regarding the Direct Support Professional rates versus the Personal Care Attendant rates so that they may draft a positions statement for this topic.

II. Strategic Planning – Review P&L Work to Plan

1. Review of Plan – New Suggested Changes – The committee recommended the following changes to be made to the State Plan as it relates to this committee's objectives. SA5 – requested updates would make this objective read as follows: "The Delaware DDC will support efforts to improve self-advocacy through support of at least one Delaware self-advocacy organization during each year of the Five Year State Plan, as well as by supporting Council members who are self-advocates attending and traveling to state, regional or national conferences, trainings and/or classes. It was also requested to add an objective SA6 with the following: "Educate and inform the community at large on the cultural history and the barriers created by the social institutional bias by exploring current issues and solutions."

- 1. Partners as Trainers** – A Train the Trainer event needs to be scheduled for 2020. The committee requested that DDC staff bring a copy of the report from the last Train the Trainer event to see what was discussed and who participated.
- 2. Self-Advocacy** – Rick discussed a new self-advocacy group being formed through Developmental Disabilities Services. This group will meet again on September 23th in Georgetown. The Committee also spoke regarding trying to bring the Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) group to Delaware or how to form a group like this in Delaware. The DDC staff is working to develop the 2019 Request for Proposals.
- 3. Partners in Policymaking 2018** – The current Partners in Policymaking is coming to an end. The graduation ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 8th at the Hilton Garden Inn. Feel free to come support this year's Partners in Policymaking class.

- III. Legislative Update** – The DDC Staff will work with our partner organizations to plan this year’s Legislative Planning Committee meeting in late September. The committee will work to create an invitation to legislators to meet with them in early November to discuss and gather ideas that the legislators can assist with in bettering the lives of people with disabilities.
- IV. Voting – Rev Up and Registration**
- a. Media** – Emmanuel has been doing weekly posts regarding the need to register to vote. Registration has now closed. Daniese stated that Bonnie Hitch with DART stated that there are accessible taxis available to those with disabilities who need transportation to go vote. Daniese is looking into whether this transportation is truly accessible or not.
- V. Issues** - The committee stated the need to share the DD Council’s position statements with legislators when new bills affecting our disability community are introduced. The committee will review the current Assisted Suicide, Housing and Subminimum Wage position statements at the next committee meeting. Drafts were provided at today’s meeting to those that requested a copy.
- 1. Assisted Suicide**
 - 2. Medication Lists in Facilities**
 - 3. Housing**
 - 4. Sub Minimum Wage**
 - 5. Sexual Assault**
- VI. Jr. Partners in Policymaking 2019** – The Request for Proposals will be going out in the next two weeks. Once the RFP has been posted, DDC Staff will notify the Council. The Committee also discussed the need to include a Train the Trainer piece to the RFP as it is an objective within the State Plan.
- VII. Other Business From the Group** – No other business to report at this time.
- VIII. Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting date will be held on Friday, September 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Friendly’s Restaurant in Middletown, DE.
- IX. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.